



## “THE SKYCHASER”

South Dakota Wing Electronic Newsletter for February 2017

*Official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force - Citizens Serving Communities: Above and Beyond*

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## WING TIPS



- **LEGISLATIVE DAY:** [By Maj. Karla West] In the early morning hours of Wednesday, 8 February seventeen members of South Dakota Wing gathered at the state capitol building for a day of learning and spreading the word about Civil Air Patrol.

Wing commander Col. David Small commented, “Inviting legislators, who ultimately provide a good deal of our Wing’s funding, to have hands on experiences in our aircraft and with members is a real boost to CAP. Legislators can see the value that we provide for tax payer dollars and they can see the commitment and competence of our members who live in communities throughout the state.”

Our time to spread the word to all the legislators and staff members who passed through the halls began around 0700 as they were heading off to committee meetings. Officers and cadets greeted them with fresh bagels, cream cheese, assorted fruit and conversation about who we are and what we do for both cadet training and our service to state and local agencies. To my surprise, almost everyone I talked to had heard of Civil Air Patrol but was not quite sure what we did. They were surprised by the vast array of services and training we offer our members. One representative was so impressed by the professionalism of a cadet that he invited her to join him on the floor of the house when session started.

As we held down the fort at the capitol a small legion of members escorted a few legislators to the local airport for a ride in a CAP plane. They were given a bird's-eye-view of Pierre and the surrounding area by Capt. Jon Becker, commander of the Pierre Composite Squadron.

After visiting with numerous representatives all morning, we stood as a group in the back of both the house and senate as they started their day. We were introduced as “the state’s best kept secret,” receiving a standing ovation by not only the legislators but everyone in attendance.

That afternoon we hosted a “snack break” for the legislators with the famous Civil Air Patrol cupcakes and assorted veggies and dip and bottled water. Officers and cadets got some good contact time talking with the representatives and senators that are so important to our well-being as an organization.

Our day of representing CAP ended with a brief visit and photo with the governor. This day of visiting our state’s capitol and legislators is one that every member should experience.



SEN. KOLBECK, CAPT. JON BECKER AND REP. GREENFIELD  
GET READY TO FLY OVER PIERRE



C/A1C SYDNE CLOUTIER WITH REP. CHARLES TURBIVILLE  
ON THE HOUSE FLOOR



- **AERIAL WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** SDWG flew 19 aerial surveys of terrestrial wildlife over 11 days in February in support of the state Department of Game, Fish & Parks and South Dakota State University. GF&P surveys deer, goats, mountain lions, and elk while SDSU surveys elk, bobcats and big horn sheep. The result was 43.2 hours flying over western South Dakota and the Black Hills and 2.8 hours flying over eastern South Dakota for a total of 46.0 flight hours. CAP pilots were: Lt. Col. Gary Hewett, 13 sorties; Lt. Col. Albert Trumble, 1 sortie; Maj. Justin Johnson, 1 sortie; Lt. Col. Buck DeWeese, 1 sortie; and Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich, 3 sorties. Depending on whom the sortie supported they were accompanied by a representative from SDSU or from GF&P.

- **SPEEDY RECOVERY:** SDWG wishes Col. Mike Beason a speedy recovery following his recent surgery. We hope he will quickly return to full operational status.

- **WINTER SURVIVAL SAREX:** From 17-19 February, a Winter Survival SAREX was held in the Black Hills near Nemo. Nearly forty members from every squadron participated in the exercise. What made this even more special was that this was a joint exercise with the Pennington County Search & Rescue organization (PCSAR). Air operations were run out of Rapid City Regional Airport. A portable generator and mobile signal repeater on a nearby mountain ridge kept communications going. Mission paperwork was old school, on paper. If you have any doubt about the enthusiasm present at the exercise ask a cadet who participated to show you a picture of their bivouac. There were no snow caves as the daytime temperature was in the 60's but there was



some very creative use of dead-fall timber and survival blankets. A special thank you to Capt. Patrick Nowlin and to Lt. Col. Craig Goodrich for pulling everything together, they spent dozens of hours working with PCSAR to coordinate everything then hauling supplies and equipment to the remote campsite. We thank PCSAR for providing funding for meals. There's nothing like keeping a horde of active teenagers fed in an outdoor environment. Thank you all who gave their weekend to CAP. I know that I feel enriched from the weekend, even though my old bones don't like sleeping on the ground outdoors as much as when I was fifteen years old. I hope that all of you gained some benefit as well.



**BASE CAMP**



**FIELD EXPEDIENT SHELTER USING DEADFALL**



**BRIEFING FOR A SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION**



**COORDINATING WITH OVERHEAD MISSION SEARCH AIRCRAFT**



**PREPARING TO EVACUATE A SIMULATED CASUALTY**

# STAFF NOTES



## **WING COMMANDER**

Col. David Small Jr., CAP

- **STATE LEGISLATIVE SQUADRON:** Thanks to the hard work of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Manny Steele, our Government Relations advisor, I am pleased to report he has signed up 12 new members for the State Legislative Squadron. When processing of the paperwork is done the squadron will have 41 members.

- **COMPLAISANCE** - "a way of behaving in which you try to please other people" Do we ever get complaisant about winter safety. I suggest that we do. Stop and think, how many times have you been warned about slippery ice and snow? All too often these warnings slip into background noise and we don't modify our behavior to match environmental dangers. Every year people die across the country from simple slips and falls. The sound of a head bouncing off of hard ice is not pleasant - and usually results in a really bad headache for the fallen person. Please incorporate safe behavior habits and patterns into your winter daily routine. If the car slips and slides you are going to also. If there is snow and ice on the ground it will be slippery, slow down and think. Aside from caring about all of our CAP family members I also don't like having to deal with paperwork required for a mishap. So be careful!

- **SDWG POSTER CONTEST:** SDWG invites all SDWG members to submit two poster designs or ideas that promote Civil Air Patrol. The posters should focus on our missions and the important role we play in our community and country. Winning poster designs will be displayed and distributed throughout South Dakota for all squadrons to use for recruitment purposes.

### **Themes:**

1. Aerospace/aviation
2. Emergency services / ground team

**Target Audience:** Recruiting seniors and cadets

### **Design Specifications:**

1. Each poster must be an 8.5" x 11" original design.
2. Each submission can be:
  - a. a short paragraph describing your idea or vision **OR**
  - b. a scanned color copy or in any medium, including computer generated of your design
3. Do not use previously copyrighted images or text. You can refer to [CAP's Brand Resource Guide](#) to use CAP's text and images.
4. Members shall submit one poster design or idea per theme.
5. SDWG reserves the right to make changes to suit CAP purposes.

**Criteria for Judging:** Winning designs will be selected based on their artistic merit, originality, and creativity, incorporating the theme in both text and/or design elements. The final posters may or may not reflect exactly what the designs or ideas were originally submitted as but were an inspiration and a major influence in the final design.

## Awards:

- One winner for each theme.
- Winners will receive a framed poster with a special note from the Wing CC to signify the first print of their poster.

**Deadline:** Entries must be received by **31 March 2017** and emailed to 2dLt. Mimi Klosterman at [mimi.klosterman@sdcap.us](mailto:mimi.klosterman@sdcap.us).

Winners will be announced at the Wing Conference 22 April 2017.

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## **WING CHIEF OF STAFF**

Maj. Nick Gengler, CAP

- **UPCOMING EVENTS:** Here are a few upcoming events that you will want to mark on your calendar.

Wing Cadet Competition is scheduled for 10-12 March in Rapid City. There is a signup link on the [www.sdcap.us](http://www.sdcap.us) webpage. Get your teams registered today!

Wing Conference early bird signup is still open until March 20. Signup sooner rather than later. Signup link is at [www.sdcap.us](http://www.sdcap.us). Don't forget to book your hotel!

8-16 July – Joint Dakota Cadet Leadership Encampment (JDCLE) to be held at Camp Rapid Army National Guard Base in Rapid City. Capt. Mike Johnson is the encampment commander. Contact him at [Michael.johnson@sdcap.us](mailto:Michael.johnson@sdcap.us) for info. Staff Encampment Applications are still open for Cadets and Officers. For cadets, please send your resume to [e.compton.cap@gmail.com](mailto:e.compton.cap@gmail.com) and [capehret@gmail.com](mailto:capehret@gmail.com). For Officers, send Capt. Johnson an email at [michael.johnson@sdcap.us](mailto:michael.johnson@sdcap.us).

- **FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP:** There is a flight scholarship specifically for female cadets – the Col. Mary Feik Flight Scholarship. To be eligible for the scholarship you: Must be a current female CAP cadet; Must have earned the Wright Brothers Award (does not require the Billy Mitchell Award); Must be at least 15 years old by 1 June. You will be required to obtain a Third Class Medical Certificate to receive a flight scholarship, however, you are not required to have one at the time that you apply. Cadets will fill out a questionnaire (Word Doc), (PDF version) rather than a submitting a resume. This scholarship can be used for local flight training at an FBO, training on CAP aircraft with a CAP instructor or at a flight academy. More information is at: <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/scholarships-for-women/civil-air-patrol-col-mary-feik-cadet-flight-scholarship/>

## **SQUADRON HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BIG SIOUX COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-58, BROOKINGS)**

(Item and photo submitted by C/MSgt Annabelle Klosterman and Lt. Col. Kipp)

- **AFROTC O-RIDES:** On Sunday, 19 February, South Dakota Wing conducted orientation flights for twelve Air Force ROTC cadets from South Dakota State University. A Sioux Falls-based Cessna-172 flew up to



Brookings to assist in the activity. Pilots for the orientation flights were Maj. E.W. Filler, Lt. Col. Greg Lair and 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jerald Hayden.



- **COLOR GUARD:** On 3 February, the squadron's Color Guard presented the colors at the USDA Farm Service Agency's annual conference. Because the event was being held during school hours, we were assisted by two cadets from the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron to help us form a complete team. The event was a great success and the Mayor of Sioux Falls thanked us for taking the time to present and honor the colors. From left to right: C/SSgt David Willison, C/MSgt Mariel Klosterman, C/MSgt Annabelle Klosterman, and C/SrA Peter Willison.

## **CRAZY HORSE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-068, CUSTER)**

(Items and photos submitted by Capt. Bierwirth)



- **VISITORS:** We had a couple of visitors in February. Local Attorney Garland Goff presented a Drug Demand Reduction program for us. He spoke about the consequences of alcohol consumption and how the laws against impaired driving can affect our lives. Also, Col. David Small dropped by to see how we are doing and to make sure we had everything we needed for the Winter Survival Training/SAREX.

- **GREAT START:** New Cadets Dalton Streff, Amelia Weiland, and Jordan Weiland participated in the Great Start Program held at Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron. Capt. Kris Bierwirth and C/2dLt Thomas Dillon, C/SMSgt Anthony Dillon and C/TSgt Hunter Rice assisted with the training. Cadets Amelia and Jordan Weiland received their Curry Award at the end of the day.

- **WINTER SURVIVAL TRAINING/SAREX:** The activity was met with excitement, great food and chilly nights. Capt. Kris Bierwirth, 2nd Lt. Tim Modde, C/2dLt Thomas Dillon, C/SMSgt Anthony Dillon, C/SrA Robert Hewitt, C/TSgt Hunter Rice and C/TSgt Ethan Updike all advanced in their skill levels and are ready to take on more!



- **OUTSTANDING CADETS:** Retired Army Veteran Donny Weiland came to the squadron to make two award presentations on behalf of the Air Force Association. C/SMSgt Anthony Dillon (left) was the recipient of the Air Force Sergeants Association's Outstanding Cadet Award and C/TSgt Ethan Updike (right) was the recipient of the Air Force Association's Outstanding Cadet Award. Each award recognizes the accomplishments each cadet achieved in the last year. Each cadet received a medal, a ribbon and a certificate.

## **LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-063, SPEARFISH)**

(Items and photos submitted by Lt. Col. Hopewell)

- **OFFUTT BRASS CONCERT:** The squadron availed themselves of a unique opportunity to take in a concert by Offutt Brass. The brass ensemble of the U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band, stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, performed in Spearfish on 23 February. Squadron Commander Maj. Bill Collister chose the regular Thursday meeting of the Squadron to be at the concert venue, instead of the usual meeting place at squadron headquarters. Several cadets, officer, and family members of cadets sat together in the concert hall, listening to the very professional and proficient members of the elite group. Offutt Brass showcased excellence and precision performing a diverse repertoire of classical selections, patriotic favorites highlighted by John Philip Sousa marches, jazz, among others. As an encore, requested by the audience in a standing ovation, they rendered a stunningly beautiful arrangement of America the Beautiful. It was a delightful experience to hear these most impressive representatives of the United States Air Force.



## **RUSHMORE COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-031, RAPID CITY)**

(Item and photo submitted by Capt. Mike Johnson)



- **COLOR GUARD:** On 28 February, the squadron Color Guard performed a presentation of colors ceremony at Stevens High School in Rapid City. The game was Stevens High School versus Rapid City Central High School Boys Varsity Basketball. The Color Guard members were: C/Amn. Grady Dehler, C/MSgt. Braden Spence, C/SMSgt. Logan Wallace and C/1st Lt. Jared Doyle.
- **GREAT START PROGRAM:** Saturday, 11 February was the date that nine cadets and several seniors from three squadrons assembled at the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron's building on the campus of the Black Hills Airport, for a day session of the Great Start Program. The program is designed to bring relatively new cadets along in their information and familiarization with their unfolding experience in CAP. Col. David Small, commander of the SDWGC began the day speaking to the assembled cadets. Maj. Bill Collister, Squadron Commander of the Spearfish-based squadron, followed up with the assistance of Capt. Kris Bierwirth, Squadron Commander of the Crazy Horse Squadron based in Custer. Also assisting were five senior cadets who contributed their experience and perspective to the four new cadets. Included in the curriculum was material relevant to the young cadets' preparation for their first test leading to their first promotion.



## **SIoux FALLS COMPOSITE SQUADRON (SD-050, SIOUX FALLS)**

(Item and photos submitted by Capt. Schmid)

- **CHECK RIDE**: On 26 February, Capt. Matt Meert successfully completed a Form 91 Mission Pilot check ride in a Cessna-182/G1000 accompanied by Mission Observer Maj Karla West and Mission Check Pilot Capt. Neil Schmid. The 1.6 hour flight took place in the Sioux Falls area.



## **★ ★ PROMOTIONS ★ ★**

### **Senior Member Promotions**



Congratulations to Tom Redlin, Donna Osment-Epp, Tina Johnson and Lucinda Helmes, all of Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to the rank of Second Lieutenant!

### **Cadet Officer Promotion**



Congratulations to Ryan Harris of Spearfish, a member of Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish, on his promotion to the rank of Cadet Second Lieutenant and receipt of the milestone Billy Mitchell Award!





## **Cadet Noncommissioned Officer Promotions**



Congratulations to Logan Wallace of Rapid City, a member of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, and to Cameron Johnson of Brandon, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Senior Master Sergeant and receipt of the General Jimmy Doolittle Award!



Congratulations to Jacob Lawrence of Ellsworth AFB and to Branden Spence of Rapid City, both members of the Rushmore Composite Squadron in Rapid City, on their promotion to the rank of Cadet Master Sergeant and receipt of the Charles Lindbergh Award!



Congratulations to David Willison of Sioux Falls, a member of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, and to Ethan Updike of Oelrichs, a member of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, on their promotion to Cadet Technical Sergeant and receipt of the Captain Eddie Rickenbacker Award!



## **Cadet Airman Promotions**



Congratulations to Sydnie Cloutier and to Jacob Roth, both of Sioux Falls and both members of the Sioux Falls Composite Squadron, on their promotion to Cadet Airman First Class and receipt of the General Hap Arnold Award!



Congratulations to Max Krier of Spearfish, a member of the Lookout Mountain Composite Squadron in Spearfish, and to Amelia Weiand and Jordan Weiand, both of Custer and both members of Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer, on their promotion to Cadet Airman and receipt of the General J. F. Curry Award!



★ ★ **KUDOS** ★ ★



Congratulations to Capt. Kris Bierwirth of the Crazy Horse Composite Squadron in Custer who graduated from Ashworth College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice!

